

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 17-20 without prejudice to Applicant's right to reintroduce the subject matter of the canceled claims in a subsequent or copending application.

- 1           1. (Original) In a system wherein a first endpoint is providing data to a plu-  
2   rality of second endpoints each connected by a point-to-point communication chan-  
3   nel with said first endpoint, an automatic method for optimizing the transmission of  
4   said data to said plurality of second endpoints comprising the following steps:
  - 5           a. said first endpoint activating a multicast communication channel having  
6               a first multicast address and commencing broadcast of said data  
7               over said multicast communication channel;
  - 8           b. said first endpoint transmitting a request message to each of said plural-  
9               ity of second endpoints in order to query each of said second end-  
10              points whether they can receive transmissions broadcast to said first  
11              multicast address;
  - 12           c. certain of said plurality of second endpoints transmitting an acknowl-  
13              edgment message and said first endpoint receiving said acknowl-  
14              edgment message;
  - 15           d. for each said acknowledgment message received from said certain of  
16              said plurality of second endpoints which indicates that said certain  
17              of said plurality of second endpoints can receive transmissions  
18              broadcast to said first multicast address, deactivating said point-to-  
19              point communication channel with said first endpoint and said cer-  
20              tain of said plurality of second endpoints; and
  - 21           e. terminating said broadcast of said data and said multicast communica-  
22              tion channel if at least two of said plurality of second endpoints do

23 not transmit said acknowledgment messages containing a positive  
24 acknowledgment.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving  
2 detach messages from certain of said plurality of second endpoints, and if at least  
3 two of said plurality of second endpoints are not receiving said data, then terminat-  
4 ing said broadcast of said data and said multicast communication channel.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said each acknowledgment mes-  
2 sage includes a response code.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said response code indicates  
2 whether each said certain of said plurality of second endpoints can receive transmis-  
3 sions broadcast to said first multicast address.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes teleconference  
2 data.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to said step of  
2 said first endpoint activating said multicast communication channel having a first  
3 multicast address, determining whether more than one of said plurality of second  
4 endpoints is coupled to said first endpoint on a single communication medium, and  
5 if not, aborting said method.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising, prior to said first  
2 endpoint activating said multicast communication channel having said first multicast  
3 address, determining whether said single communication medium supports broad-  
4 casting to said first multicast address.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes teleconference  
2 data between said first endpoint and said plurality of second endpoints.

1           9. (Original) An apparatus in a first endpoint for transmitting data to a plu-  
2   rality of second endpoints receiving said data from said first endpoint on point-to-  
3   point communication channels comprising:

4           a. a circuit for activating a multicast communication channel having a first  
5                 multicast address and commencing broadcast of said data over said  
6                 multicast communication channel;

7           b. a circuit for transmitting a request message to each of said plurality of  
8                 second endpoints in order to query each of said second endpoints  
9                 whether they can receive transmissions broadcast to said first multi-  
10                cast address;

11          c. a circuit for receiving acknowledgment messages, if any, from certain of  
12                 said plurality of second endpoints;

13          d. a circuit for deactivating each said point-to-point communication chan-  
14                 nel with said certain of said plurality of second endpoints respon-  
15                 sive to receiving each said acknowledgment message; and

16          e. a circuit for terminating said broadcast of said data and said multicast  
17                 communication channel if at least two of said acknowledgment  
18                 messages containing a positive acknowledgment are not received.

1           10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a circuit for receiv-  
2   ing detach messages from others of said plurality of second endpoints; and if at least  
3   two of said plurality of second endpoints are not receiving said data, then terminat-  
4   ing said broadcast of said data and said multicast communication channel.

1           11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said each acknowledgment  
2   message includes a response code.

1           12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said response code indicates  
2 whether each of said certain of said plurality of second endpoints can receive trans-  
3 missions broadcast to said first multicast address.

1           13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said data includes teleconfer-  
2 ence data.

1           14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a detection circuit  
2 operative prior to said first endpoint activating said multicast communication chan-  
3 nel having said first multicast address for determining whether more than one of  
4 said plurality of second endpoints is coupled to said first endpoint on a single com-  
5 munication medium, and if not, not activating said circuits b and c.

1           15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising, prior to activa-  
2 tion of said detection circuit a circuit for determining whether said single communi-  
3 cation medium supports broadcasting to said first multicast address.

1           16. (Previously presented) In a system wherein a first endpoint is providing  
2 data to a plurality of second endpoints each connected by a point-to-point communi-  
3 cation channel with said first endpoint, an automatic method for optimizing the  
4 transmission of said data to said plurality of second endpoints comprising the fol-  
5 lowing steps:

6           a. said first endpoint activating a multicast communication channel having  
7           a first multicast address and commencing broadcast of said data  
8           over said multicast communication channel;

9           b. said first endpoint transmitting a request message to each of said plural-  
10           ity of second endpoints in order to query each of said second end-  
11           points whether they can receive transmissions broadcast to said first  
12           multicast address;

13 c. certain of said plurality of second endpoints transmitting an acknowl-  
14 edgement message and said first endpoint receiving said acknowl-  
15 edgement message;  
16 d. for each said acknowledgement message received from said certain of  
17 said plurality of second endpoints which indicates that said certain  
18 of said plurality of second endpoints can receive transmissions  
19 broadcast to said first multicast address, deactivating said point-to-  
20 point communication channel with said first endpoint and said cer-  
21 tain of said plurality of second endpoints; and  
22 e. terminating said broadcast of said data and said multicast communica-  
23 tion channel if a predetermined condition regarding said acknowl-  
24 edgement messages from said plurality of second endpoints is satis-  
25 fied.

1 17. (Canceled)

1 18. (Canceled)

1 19. (Canceled)

1 20. (Canceled)